

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T STATE 189489

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, IS

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR ATHERTON'S MEETING IN ISRAEL

REF: AMMAN 6189

1. YOUR TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR MEETING WITH BEGIN AND DAYAN LOOK FINE TO US WITH THE FOLLOWING RESERVATION: WE ASSUME YOU WOULD SIMPLY DRAW ON THIS MATERIAL SINCE TRYING TO COVER IT ALL IN A MEETING WITH BEGIN MAY, AS YOU SAID ON THE PHONE, BE MORE THAN THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR. THE FULL RANGE OF POINTS WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR A MEETING WITH DAYAN, BUT YOU WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE SELECTIVE WITH BEGIN.

2. WE NOTE THAT YOU HAVE NOT GONE INTO THE PROBLEM OF
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HOW ISRAEL'S INSISTENCE THAT ITS CITIZENS NOT BE TREATED AS FOREIGNERS COULD BE RECONCILED WITH THE EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE WEST BANK/GAZA TO ARAB SOVEREIGNTY. YOU MIGHT WANT TO ADD THIS TO COMPLETE YOUR CHECKLIST OF POSSIBLE SUBJECTS BUT, ALONG WITH THE REST, TREAT IT AS A POSSIBLE RATHER THAN NECESSARY SUBJECT TO RAISE.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF TELLING THE ISRAELIS HOW WE THINK
THE DIFFERENCES MIGHT BE BRIDGED, WE AGREE THAT IT IS

PROBABLY BEST TO BEGIN NOW GETTING ACROSS OUR IDEAS TO THE
ISRAELIS AT LEAST IN GENERAL FORM. YOU SHOULD KEEP IN
MIND, HOWEVER, SECRETARY'S DESIRE TO KEEP OPEN FOR HIM
ALL OPTIONS IN DEALING WITH THIS SUBJECT. IN ADDITION,
WE QUESTION FOR THE SAME REASONS MENTIONED ABOVE HOW
DETAILED YOU CAN GET IN YOUR FORMAL SESSION WITH BEGIN
AND DAYAN. GIVEN BEGIN'S MOOD, AS SAM HAS DESCRIBED IT,
THE OUTCOME COULD BE UNPREDICTABLE. IF YOU SEE A WAY
OF WEAVING IN SOME OF OUR IDEAS NATURALLY, GO AHEAD, BUT
YOU MAY WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR FRIDAY LUNCHEON
WITH DAYAN TO DO SOME OF THIS, USING SUBSTANCE OF TICKS
4 THROUGH 15 OF ,B. NEXT STEPS, FROM YOUR TALKING PAPER
FOR SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN (IN OUR COPY OF PAPER TICK 4
BEGINS ,WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SOME IDEA OF OUR CONCEPT....).
WE HOPE YOU WILL FIND A WAY TO WEAVE POINTS INTO CONVER-
SATION NATURALLY RATHER THAN PRESENTING THESE POINTS
FORMALLY AS THE AMERICAN POSITION IN ONE PIECE. IT IS
THE TOTALITY OF THE POINTS THAT COULD BE TROUBLESOME TO
THE ISRAELIS, IT SEEMS TO US, MORE THAN THE SUBSTANCE OF
MOST OF THE INDIVIDUAL POINTS THEMSELVES WHICH THE
ISRAELIS HAVE HEARD BEFORE.

4. FURTHER, IT ALSO SEEMS TO US THAT IT WILL BE IMPORTANT,
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AS SOME SUGGESTED ON THE PHONE, TO PRESENT OUR IDEAS AS
GROWING OUT OF PAST EXCHANGES OR RELATED TO ISRAELI
POSITIONS SO AS TO AVOID IMPRESSION OF NEWNESS WHICH
COULD TRIGGER REACTION, ,HERE COMES THE AMERICAN PLAN."

5. IN SHORT, TRY TO PUT ANY OF OUR IDEAS YOU RAISE INTO
PLAY IN A NATURAL WAY GROWING OUT OF PAST DIALOGUE,
AVOID IMPRESSION YOU ARE FORESHADOWING AMERICAN PLAN, AND
LEAVE SECRETARY'S OPTIONS OPEN.
CHRISTOPHER

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